

7995, Evansville-Vanderburgh Sch Corp

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Digital Learning Revolution

The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation plans to implement a One-To-One laptop initiative for students in grades 9-12 beginning in the fall of 2009. The purpose is to ignite a passion for learning, inspiring all students to become self-motivated, enthusiastic participants in their education. This Digital Learning Revolution supports the district's tradition as an innovative leader by moving forward with an integrated approach to technology use. Furthermore, it reinforces technology as one of the core focus areas of the district's Strategic Plan for equity and excellence for all students.

The goal is to infuse technology into our classrooms across all curricular areas to enhance active, student-centered teaching and learning. To implement a program of this magnitude is truly a revolution. It will require a shift in paradigm by staff if we are to continue to engage students in their learning and prepare them for the world in which they will work, compete and contribute. Our goal is to achieve a seamless integration of technology into the daily curriculum and continue to add to our growing inventory of best practices.

To support this endeavor, we have hired Achievement Coaches for each of our five high schools, who will be dedicated to supporting this change in practice. Besides leading student teams for technical and application support, and providing professional development for teachers, these coaches will also lead an initiative to create a digital curriculum framework. We see this digital content as essential to guaranteeing the effective use of the netbooks in the classroom, as well as providing us an alternative to textbook-driven instruction. This five-member team, supported by district administration and our Integrating Curriculum and Technology Specialists (ICATS), will work to make this content a reality.

We will begin with some course material from Florida Virtual School, providing some initial content that teachers can access as well as a model for what can be created. Next, our coaches will collaborate with our teachers in building repositories of online resources. Built in our newly developed ANGEL learning environment, these repositories will compliment district initiatives in curriculum mapping and provide a framework for 21st Century instruction. Additionally, each coach will be the facilitator of a Digital Production lab in their school, allowing students to be involved in the creation of digital resources that will also be contributed to the repository.

As we pursue this change in instruction, we will rely on a partnership with North Daviess School Corporation, which has been held up as a national model for their integration of project-based learning and one-to-one computing. They will provide the opportunity for on-site visitation and local professional development. In a learning exchange, we will share our experience in the realm of instructional technology to support their implementation of interactive white boards and document cameras.